

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US VISIT OF ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AND
UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

1. MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HOSTED LAST WEEK BY CONGRESS RETURNED TO ITALY ENTHUSED ABOUT THEIR AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. IN PRESS INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS THE MORE PROMINENT MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS, THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PROGRAM AND WITH THE HOSPITALITY ACCORDED THEM. MOST TOOK CARE TO PUT THE TRIP IN ITS PROPER PARLIAMENTARY CONTEXT AND TO DOWNPLAY ANY SPECIAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE VISIT. MAJOR POINTS:

2. SENATOR VEDOVATO (DC): "I FOUND THE TRIP COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY; WE MET EACH OF OUR OBJECTIVES. IN OUR CONTACT AT THE PARLIAMENTARY LEVEL WE COULD SEE THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. (WE RECEIVED) INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY WE FORESAW."
"AFTER MEETING WITH LEADERS OF BOTH HOUSES, WE WERE ABLE, THANKS TO THE EXCELLENT HOSPITALITY OF OUR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES, TO MAKE EXTREMELY INTERESTING VISITS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE CENTER AND THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT COLORADO SPRINGS..."

3. SENATOR CALAMANDREI (COMMUNIST): "THE TRIP WAS A POSITIVE EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT..."

4. HON. QUILLERI (REPUBLICAN): "THIS WAS A ROUTINE TRIP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION. WE HAD NO CONTACTS
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WITH THE AMERICAN (EXECUTIVE BRANCH) AND EVEN THOSE WITH THE

CONGRESS WERE A BIT FORMAL. IT WOULD BE AN
EXAGGERATION TO ATTRIBUTE POLITICAL RELEVANCE TO SUCH A TRIP."

5. HON. SEGRE (COMMUNIST): "THIS CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN SOCI-
ETY WAS OF GREAT INTEREST."

6. UNDER QUESTIONING FROM REPORTERS, BOTH CALAMANDREI AND
SEGRE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DIFFERENTIATION IN TREATMENT OF
GROUP MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES. SEGRE SAID HIS
OWN RECEPTION HAD BEEN "ABSOLUTELY FINE", IDENTICAL TO THAT EXTENDED
TO ALL OTHER MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION. SIMILARLY SEN. CALAMANDREI
SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DIFFERENTIATION MADE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF
THE DELEGATION IN THAT ALL WERE CONSIDERED "EXPONENTS
OF THIS ITALIAN PARLIAMENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR DEMOCRACY
AS IT IS CONSTITUTED, AND IN THIS SENSE THE TRIP WAS
A DOUBLE SUCCESS."

7. VISAS. REGARDING THE EARLIER VISA IMBROGLIO (WHEN SEGRE WAS RE-
PORTED TO HAVE BEEN DENIED A US VISA), CALAMANDREI SAID IN A
TONE OF SWEET REASONABLENESS THAT HAD HE OR SEGRE
BEEN DENIED A VISA FOR THIS PARLIAMENTARY VISIT, "THE ITALIAN
DELEGATION WOULD HAVE HAD TO CANCEL THE TRIP TO
THE US."BEAUDRY

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